



Inclusive Resource  
Management Initiative  
(IRMI)  
QUARTERLY REPORT

<b>NAME OF ORGANIZATION</b>	Mercy Corps Nepal
<b>PROJECT TITLE AND REFERENCE NUMBER</b>	Inclusive Resource Management Initiative (IRMI)
<b>PROJECT DURATION</b>	From: June 2013 - June 2016 (36 months)
<b>UPDATE PERIOD</b>	January to March 2016
<b>USAID COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT NO.</b>	AID-367-A-13-0001
<b>PROGRAM BUDGET</b>	\$1,654,645
<b>FUNDS COMMITTED FOR THE PERIOD</b>	\$151,606
<b>COUNTRY CONTACT PERSON- NEPAL</b>	Mr. Sanjay Karki Country Director Mercy Corps Nepal Sanepa Chowk, Lalitpur Nepal, P.O. Box 24374, Kathmandu Cell: (+977) 9801015763 Email: skarki@mercycorps.org www.mercycorps.org
<b>HEADQUARTERS</b>	Mr. Jared Rowell Senior Program Officer Mercy Corps South and East Asia Email: jrowell@mercycorps.org

## Table of Contents

Acronyms and Abbreviations .....	3
I. Program Overview .....	4
II. Highlights of this Quarter's Achievements: .....	5
III. Program Update by Objectives.....	6
IV. Challenges .....	16
V. Lessons Learned .....	16
VI. Operating Environment: .....	17
VII. Coordination and Collaboration: .....	18
VIII. Upcoming activities.....	20
IX. Impact Story:.....	20
Annex – I: Natural Resource Management Initiatives: .....	23
Annex II: Environmentally Sustainable Economic Initiatives: .....	24
Annex III: PMP Achievements for this Period: .....	25

## List of photos/Figures

Figure 1: ToT on Dialogue Facilitation, Banke .....	6
Figure 2: Dialogue Facilitation Training in SitaRam CFUG.....	7
Figure 3: General Assembly in Kotahi CFUG, Bardiya .....	9
Figure 4: Training on CFUG Management in Suryodaya CFUG, Kailali.....	9
Figure 5: Education Session in SahidSanghari CFUG .....	10
Figure 6: Hoarding board installed in Pawannagar, Dang .....	11
Figure 7: Performing street drama in Motipur, Bardiya .....	11
Figure 8: VDC-level meeting held in Hasulia, Kailali .....	12
Figure 9: Bio-engineering check dam, Neulapur, Bardiya .....	14
Figure 10: Users engaged in fire line preparation, Dang.....	14
Figure 11: Poultry Farming in Manikapur, Banke .....	15
Figure 12: IRMI video recording .....	15
Figure 13: District level stakeholder's field monitoring visit in Dang .....	19
Figure 14: Sketch agreed by both parties on 31 Dec 2015.....	20
Figure 16: Final sketch agreed on 9 Feb 2016 .....	21
Figure 15: Pillar installation and fire line preparation jointly.....	21
Figure 17: Both communities celebrating their success.....	21

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADR	Alternative Disputes Resolution
AFO	Area Forest Office
BASE	Backward Society Education
CA	Constituent Assembly
CDO	Chief District Officer
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CMM	Conflict Management and Mitigation
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDC	District Development Committee
DEO	District Education Officer
CFCC	Community Forest Coordination Committee
DFO	District Forest Officer
DiSCO	District Soil Conservation Office
DLRO	District Land Reform Office
DPAC	District Project Advisory Committee
FECOFUN	Federation of Community Forestry Users
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FNRM	Forum for Natural Resource Management
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
IRMI	Inclusive Resource Management Initiative
KII	Key Informant Interview
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Program
MC	Mercy Corps
NRM	Natural Resource Management
NRMF	Natural Resource Management Forum (NRMF)
SS	SahakarmiSamaj
SWC	Social Welfare Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
WCO	Women and Children's Office

## **I. Program Overview**

Since June 2013, Mercy Corps and two local partners – Backward Society Education (BASE) and SaharkarmiSamaj (SS) – are implementing the three-year USAID-funded “Inclusive Resource Management Initiative (IRMI)” to support Nepal’s transition to a more peaceful, equitable society. The overarching goal remains to enhance stability through natural resource-based conflict resolution and inclusive natural resource management to implement program activities targeting 20 Village Development Committees (VDCs) in four districts of the western Terai, including Kailali, Bardiya, Banke and Dang Districts. The program has thus far reached 8,282 households and 46,592 family members (23,490 male and 22,102 female).

Throughout this program in all implementation activities, Mercy Corps and partners maintain a holistic and people-to-people approach, which:

- Facilitates the resolution of resource-based conflicts;
- Promotes inclusive decision-making related to natural resource use and management; and
- Reduces natural resource competition through joint environmental and economic initiatives.

### **Theories of change:**

- If local decision-making related to natural resource use and management is more inclusive, then resource-related conflicts will decrease; and
- If Nepalis work together to reduce pressure on natural resources, then conflict over these resources will decline and dispute resolution agreements will be more sustainable.

### **Program Major Activities:**

The program facilitates natural resource-based conflict resolution, promotes inclusive management and strengthens governance practices of Community Forest User Groups (CFUG), and reduces dependency on natural resources through joint environmental and economic initiatives through the following activities:

- Facilitate the development of conflict resolution agreements around Natural Resource Management (NRM) issues
- Strengthen community user groups’ internal governance
- Raise awareness of natural resources rights and responsibilities
- Support community participation in local government decision-making
- Facilitate the Natural Resource Management Forums (NRMFs) to identify and resolve local conflicts
- Hold advocacy workshops with the relevant government bodies in the four districts
- Create 20 additional joint natural resource management initiatives
- Support 20 additional environmentally sustainable economic initiatives
- Produce handbook for IRMI key-stakeholders/Training of Trainers (ToT) on interest-based negotiation, mediation and multi-stakeholders’ dialogue
- Develop IRMI video documentary capturing relevant success stories, case studies and best practices
- Develop a solid system to ensure sustainability of the project activities, including natural resource management (NRM) and economic initiatives.
- End of project transition activities

## **II. Highlights of this Quarter's Achievements:**

- IRMI organized a four-day advanced ToT on NRM Conflict Management to 20IRMI team members (6 female and 14 male) in Nepalgunj on 23-26 February 2016.
- IRMI organized a 3-day Dialogue Facilitation training, as a part of five-day advanced course with 13 CFUGs with 225 (145male and 110 female) key stakeholders.
- Key stakeholders (of the total 421; approximately 20 from each CFUG) were able to mitigate four natural resource related conflicts in this period.
- 180 (93male and 87 female) Executive Committee members, advisors and some active users participated in nine CFUG management trainings in Kailali, Bardiya and Dang districts.
- Altogether, 1,071 community participants (473male and 598 female) took part in the nineteen education sessions from the target CFUGs.
- According to the community needs, FM stations in close coordination with the program team developed and aired 27 programs in four districts to raise awareness on the rights and responsibilities related to natural resources.
- Five hoarding boards are being installed in Dang and Bardiya districts to provide visible information regarding forest policies and guidelines.
- Seventeen episodes of street dramas were performed in Dang, Bardiya and Kailali by a team of professional actors to raise community awareness.
- 60 CFUG members (47 male and 13 female) from the target CFUGs participated in the VDC planning processes and endorsed their plans.
- A total of 354 (240 male and 114 female) VDC-level stakeholders from the VDC office, political parties, Ward Citizen Forum, Badghar (traditional leaders in Tharu community), social workers, journalists and NGOs activists participated in nine VDC-level meetings.
- Seven experience sharing meetings were conducted among 127 (68 male and 59 female) trained key stakeholders to review their experiences in the conflict facilitations in the target districts.
- Out of the 20 second phase NRM initiatives, 11 CFUGs have completed implementation, four CFUGs are at the final stage for completion, three CFUGs are preparing to start implementation early in the next quarter, while the remaining two CFUGs are still working on resolving their internal conflicts.
- IRMI target CFUGs celebrated Forest Fire Prevention Week on 28 February to 05 March 2016.
- Out of the 20 second phase economic initiatives, 14 CFUGs have completed implementation, two CFUGs are at the final stage for completion, two CFUGs are preparing to start implementation early in the next quarter, while the remaining two CFUGs are still working on resolving their internal conflicts.
- IRMI participated in the USAID CMM partners' quarterly meeting on 21-25 January in Butwal.
- On the basis of natural resource conflict management experiences, IRMI has developed a 'Dialogue Facilitation' manual.
- IRMI conducted a district-level stakeholder visit to project sites which included District Project Advisory Committee (DPAC) members in Bardiya and Dang districts.
- IRMI has collected video clips from the field to develop a video documentary of project learning and successes.

### III. Program Update by Objectives

**Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of key stakeholders to resolve community-level natural resource conflicts in an inclusive, sustainable manner.**

***Activity 1.1: Map natural resource conflicts.***

No new NRM conflicts identified in this period. However, as the program identifies new conflicts in the target communities, the process begins with mapping the context, dynamics and structure of those conflicts.

***Activity 1.2: Conduct joint training for key stakeholders in conflict analysis and resolution.***

IRMI team has finalized an experience-based Dialogue Facilitation Manual. The manual was developed after deeper analysis of the different case studies collected from the IRMI communities by all the team members, including two experts, Dr. Dinesh Prasai and Hari Pandit. The manual has developed a Ten Step dialogue module and has designed a five-day intensive course. The team is planning to publish the manual in the next quarter and distribute it to all key stakeholders. All trainings for key stakeholders are now conducted on the basis of the manual.

**‘Training of Trainers (ToT)’ on Dialogue Facilitation:**

IRMI organized a four-day advanced ToT on NRM Conflict Management to 20 (14 male and 6female) IRMI staff members in Nepalgunj on 23-26 Feb 2016. Thereafter, they will impart the skills/knowledge to key stakeholder in the target communities in the coming quarter and onward past the life of the program. The ToT participants learned about training methods and dialogue process facilitation; and to assist communities to settle multi-stakeholder conflicts themselves, especially those related to natural resources. The training was facilitated on the basis of the experience-based Dialogue Facilitation manual and the participants learned about the ten step dialogue module developed. The main contents of the ToT are as follows:

- *Introduction to dialogue and facilitation*
- *Ten Skill sets of Dialogue Facilitators*
- *Inner Values of Facilitators*
- *Building Trust with Community*
- *Issues Identification*
- *Assessing or Enhancing Urge for Dialogue*
- *Design Dialogue Process*
- *Identifying and Trust-Building with Key Stakeholders*
- *Enhancing Skills and Ownership of Stakeholders*
- *Create Safe Environment for Dialogue Sessions*



**Figure 1: ToT on Dialogue Facilitation, Banke**

- *Facilitate Dialogue Sessions*
- *Plan Follow-up and Reflection Sessions*
- *Further Skills: Mediation and Negotiation*

### **Dialogue Facilitation Training to Key Stakeholders:**

IRMI organized three-day Dialogue Facilitation training as a part of a five-day advance course on dialogue facilitation with 13 CFUGs among 225 key stakeholders (145 male and 110 female) in this period. The training was conducted on the basis of IRMI's experience-based Dialogue Facilitation manual. The main objective of the training was to impart advanced skills to key stakeholders to facilitate the mitigation or resolution of complex NRM conflicts more effectively. Participants learned about the 'ten-step dialogue module' recently developed on the basis of experiences gained through the IRMI program. According to the training module, the whole course was divided into three parts; *Part1: Three-day Training, Part2: Implementation of Training Learning, and Part3: Experience Sharing and Addressing Concerns*. After the training, they will implement the dialogue processes in the field to facilitate NRM conflict resolution/mitigation. After a few weeks of practical work, they will join a two-day training to share their experiences and learn additional skills and complete the five-day advance course. By this point, the key stakeholders will have developed their action plans to implement their learning in the field.



**Figure 2: Dialogue Facilitation Training in SitaRam CFUG**

#### ***About the Dialogue Facilitation Training:***

*Nayan Bahadur Bogati, Joint Secretary Sita Ram CFUG Kailali, said, "We have learned methods to build trust between conflicting parties."*

*Damodar Pokharel, Peace Facilitator Bagnaha Bardiya, said, "The advanced training of dialogue facilitation is very useful because this training is designed on the basis of local dispute mitigation experiences from our own context. We will get the chance to share our real experiences in the next round of training."*

*BishnuBahadurThapa, Shantinager VDC Secretary Dang, said, "I learned that effective communication and trust-building are key pillars of dialogue facilitation. It teaches us that all the stakeholders need to be engaged rigorously to mitigate conflicts effectively. On behalf of the VDC, I am always committed to it."*

### ***Activity 1.3 Facilitate the Development of Conflict Resolution Agreements by Key Stakeholders.***

IRMI is continuously engaged in enhancing capacities of key stakeholders to facilitate the resolution or mitigation of NRM conflicts that have been hindering the smooth operation of the CFUGs and led to deteriorated relationships amongst the communities involved. Ultimately, these conflicts have resulted in large-scale illegal resource exploitation and reduced positive community engagement in natural resource management activities. Therefore, IRMI facilitates a safe space for communities to mitigate and resolve their conflicts by engaging all the concerned stakeholders to discuss their issues rigorously and craft an



amicable solution together. In this period, four natural resource related conflicts were resolved. After the conflicts were effectively resolved, the CFUGs are able to operate smoothly and are receiving regular support from the concerned stakeholders for pro-active, positive and sustainable natural resource management. The details of the conflicts resolved in this period are as follows:

- A conflict related to forest land encroachment was mitigated by key stakeholders in Miteri CFUG, Banke. Eight households were encroaching on approximately 1,350 sq meters of forest land for many years. However, this came to the management's attention only nine months ago. The facilitation of the case was led by the trained key stakeholders from Miteri Natural Resource Management Forum (NRMF). They also received support from the District Forest Officer (DFO) representatives to identify the forest land that was being encroached upon. After a series of formal and informal dialogue sessions among the representatives from both the conflicting parties, the long-standing conflict came to an end. As the representatives from the eight families were given legal proof that the land did indeed belong to the CFUG, they agreed to leave the land where they planted bamboo, bananas, mustard plants, lentils, and fodder trees. In addition, they jointly agreed to install barbed wire fencing to sustain the agreement. After a few weeks, both the groups worked together to install the barbed wire fencing.
- There was a conflict between Kamal Pokhari CFUG and Namuna CFUG over four hectares of barren land. Namana CFUG claimed the land because they had been conserving it over an extended period of time, though the Kamal Pokhari CFUG claimed the same reason. The case came before the NRMF and key stakeholders initiated conflict facilitation over the course of a few months and were able to come to a peaceful resolution on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016. According to their consensus, three hectares of the land goes to Kamal Pokhari and the remaining one hectare to Namuna. To solidify the decision, both communities demarked the boundaries jointly and are planning to prepare a durable border line soon.
- For seven years, there was conflict between EkataSamaj CFUG and BhadohiMahila CFUG over 2.5 hectares of forest land. IRMI key stakeholders initiated conflict facilitation process with both the communities and involved the DFO in several of the sessions. Finally, both the CFUGs were able to mitigate the long-standing conflict peacefully on 20 Feb 2016. They agreed to conduct a GPS survey based on their approved action plan and maps and to follow both accordingly. According to the survey, the piece of land was identified as belonging to EkataSamaj, a finding which due to the extensive facilitation process, Bhadohi accepted easily. Now, EkataSamaj CFUG is able to collect fodder and firewood from the land for the first time in seven years.
- For eight years, 75 Ex-Kamaiya and landless households cultivated seven hectares of forest land and were preparing cowsheds, storage, etc. inside the forest. That was the main cause of their conflict with the local users. IRMI key stakeholders conducted several formal and informal dialogue sessions between the landless households and the local users starting in September 2015. They were finally able to mitigate the conflict peacefully on 16 February 2016. According to their agreement, Ex-Kamaiya and landless households agreed to leave the forest land they were using and prepare fencing. According to the agreement, both the divided communities have demarcated the land and installed 1,500 meters of barbed wire fencing jointly to sustain the agreement reached and protect the forest from further encroachments.

**Objective 2: Increase inclusive and participatory resource-related decision-making among community and government bodies.**

***Activity 2.1: Strengthen internal governance of community user group.***



The IRMI program team facilitated community user groups' self-capacity assessments at the program start and again at the middle of the program. The assessments were built on five main indicators: 1. Resource Availability, 2. Organizational Capacity of CFUGs, 3. Inclusion of the Poor and the Excluded Communities, 4. Forest Management, and 5. Coordination and Collaboration between Groups/Bodies. During these sessions, the user groups identified their gaps. Examples include: lack of transparency, low participation of group members in meetings, exclusion of marginalized groups, internal leadership and coordination issues with and between like-minded organization/bodies, no financial accountability system in place, and poor service delivery. Based on the gaps identified, IRMI and the CFUGs designed capacity building programs for each user group with appropriate oversight and facilitated the drafting of capacity development plans with the CFUGs. Based on their plans, IRMI conducted exposure visits, governance and advocacy training sessions, regular coaching sessions, and education sessions. In addition, they were facilitated throughout the program operations so that CFUGs learned by practicing good governance principles. During the NRM and Economic Initiative implementation, the CFUGs learned to apply all the principles in their actual practice so that there would not be compliance issues in the future. In addition, the IRMI team participates in their regular meetings, planning meetings, monitoring team meetings, general assemblies, public audits, program implementation, etc. to coach CFUGs on the issues requiring support.



Figure 3: General Assembly in Kotahi CFUG, Bardiya

### CFUG Management Training:

As a part of the CFUG capacity enhancement plans, two-day CFUG management trainings were conducted in Kailali, Bardiya and Dang districts. In total, 180 (93 male and 87 female) CFUG Executive Committee members, advisors and some active users actively participated in nine training sessions. The trainings were focused on the gaps they had identified, including: record keeping, documentation, procurement, filing systems, public audits, social audits, General Assembly, inclusive participatory decision making process, and other indicators on which low progress had been identified during the capacity assessments.



Figure 4: Training on CFUG Management in Suryodaya CFUG, Kailali

#### About the CFUG Management Training:

*Kali Rana, Secretary of Sita Ram CFUG Bela Kailali, said, "I found strong documentation is very important, but we were unable to maintain it. This training has helped us to manage the office effectively and operate accordingly."*

*Bharat Bahadur Gurung, Secretary of Ekata Samaj, Motipur, Bardiya, said, "I learned a lot to improve in our CFUG. I realized that systematic documentation is very important."*

### Activity 2.2: Raise awareness of rights and responsibilities related to natural resources

Mercy Corps coordinated with District Forest Office (DFO) officials and user group networks, including FECOFUN and CFCC, to plan and execute an extension education program on government policies related to natural resources and the rights of various categories of Nepalis. The program includes mass media such as FM radio, community education sessions, street drama, posters, hoarding board

installations, exposure visits, flex board developments and others, with an emphasis on reaching women and marginalized groups. These activities are continuing throughout the project period. IRMI conducted a rapid assessment on key advocacy issues that are hindering the target CFUGs' operations and also conducted advocacy workshops to draw stakeholders' attention to these in Kailali and Bardiya districts.

### **Natural Resource Education Sessions:**

During this period, a series of education sessions were carried out by IRMI to raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities related to natural resource use and management. These sessions lasted several hours each and were conducted in the communities to disseminate messages with technical support from the District/Sector/Area Forest Offices, FECOFUN and CFCC representatives. Altogether, 1,071 community participants (473 male and 598 female) took part in the nineteen education sessions from the target CFUGs during this period. The session contents were designed on the basis of CFUG necessities and seasonal priorities. The consolidated topics included in the education sessions conducted were as follows:



**Figure 5: Education Session in SahidSanghari CFUG**

- *Revolving fund mobilization*
- *Forest conservation and management*
- *Participatory wellbeing ranking and provision for marginalized, women, poor and ultra-poor households in CFUGs (land allocation, 35% fund allocation for poor, etc.)*
- *Forest land demarcation*
- *CFUG memberships to new users*
- *Roles and responsibilities of executive committee members*
- *Importance of fire line and technical aspects to prepare fire line to protect forest*
- *Disaster risk reduction*
- *Climate change and its impact*
- *Importance of forest to our livelihoods*
- *Current challenges and opportunities in the community forest (local and national context)*

### **FM Radio Program:**

According to the community needs, FM stations in close coordination with the program team developed and aired 27 programs in four districts to raise awareness on the rights and responsibilities related to natural resources. Radio program were found to be effective in reaching a wide range of people easily. The majority of the programs include community member sound bites, expert opinions, program progress and discussions on emerging essential issues for peacebuilding, natural resource management, government policies and guidelines, etc. The programs were aired through the respective FM stations after undergoing quality assurance checks by the program team. In addition, these programs reached outside IRMI target communities and are being heard by a much wider audience than originally foreseen.

### **Hoarding Board Installation**

Five hoarding boards are being installed in Dang and Bardiya districts to provide visible information regarding forest policies and guidelines. The hoarding boards include 15 important points from the Community Forest Development Guidelines so that the community can learn about key provisions from the guidelines. This open sharing of information has been of great interest to the communities.



Figure 6: Hoarding board installed in Pawannagar, Dang

### **About the Hoarding Board:**

*Dan Bahadur Kathayat user of Kopila CFUG Neulapur, Bardiya, said, “All users don't read lengthy books regarding policies and provisions. Therefore, major points are written on the hoarding board and now it is useful to us to get information easily.”*

*Gyan Bahadur Hamal, Mukhiya Pawannagar VDC, Dang, said, “The things written on the board provide information about forest policies and provisions to the community people. It has drawn attention of people who come to the health post and VDC office where they can read about these issues from the board. This means they have the opportunity to get information more easily.”*

### **Street Drama:**

Seventeen episodes of street dramas were performed in Dang, Bardiya and Kailali by a team of professional actors to raise community awareness on natural resource management, use and peacebuilding. These programs were designed on the basis of community needs and vary from one community to another. This has been found to be an effective mass messaging tool to raise awareness on community forest preservation and management. The scripts were developed carefully to draw people's attention and disseminate desired messages accordingly.



Figure 7: Performing street drama in Motipur, Bardiya

### **Activity 2.3: Support community participation in government decision-making processes.**

Mercy Corps and partners have coordinated IRMI activities with the VDC offices, Citizen Awareness Centers and Ward Citizen Forums when appropriate. This builds on the extension education program by ensuring that community members have the skills and opportunity to voice their concerns and propose

### **About Street Drama:**

*Gulari Tharu, user of Ekata Samaj CFUG Motipur, Bardiya, said, “The conflict caused by wood distribution has been demonstrated through street drama. Our CFUG is facing this conflict for a long time. It should be resolved soon, otherwise it will create big problems for us in near future, as shown in the drama.”*



solutions so that government plans are shaped by community priorities. BASE and SahakarmiSamaj, with oversight by Mercy Corps, are working with user groups and community members, particularly women's groups and marginalized communities, in the 20 target sites to identify opportunities for participation in the government planning processes, develop strategies for articulating their demands, and actual, meaningful participation in the government planning processes. Similarly, IRMI is working in close coordination with the DFO to ensure that the target CFUGs are getting opportunities to participate in the DFO planning process and are able to include their plans as well.

### Participation in Government Planning Process:

The bottom-up 14-step government planning process runs from November until March and seeks to develop participatory plans so that the communities have ownership of the plans. Community plans are discussed and taken forward from the settlement levels to the District Development Committee (DDC) level. Therefore, IRMI conducted a range of community awareness activities to empower target CFUGs to participate in the planning process so that they could endorse their projects related to natural resource management. Activities included education sessions, sharing in CFUG regular meetings and messages on flex boards. These activities were carried out in all IRMI target CFUGs. As a result, 60 CFUG members (47 male and 13 female) from the target CFUGs participated in the VDC planning processes in this period and endorsed their plans. In this round, they also endorsed the IRMI-supported activities and NRM related projects for the first time in their VDC plans.

#### *About the planning process:*

*Sita Ram Rana, Vice President of Sita Ram CFUG, BelaKailali, said, "IRMI made us aware of the 14-step government planning process. Now, I feel proud to participate in the VDC council."*

*LabanuTharu, advisor of Jbarsaluma CFUG, Bagnaha, Bardiya, said, "We had been participating in the planning meeting every year, but never thought to take forward the NRM related agendas to the VDC council. This year, we raised several issues in council, like barbed wire fencing in the forest area and bio-check dams."*

*Tara Bhandari, Secretary Deviddanada CFUG, Purandhar, Dang, said, "The project has empowered us and that has changed us in different aspects. Now, we have started to go to the VDC council and have started to raise our voices as well. Now, women are also interested in participating in the VDC planning process."*

### VDC-Level Meetings:

Nine VDC-level meetings were organized to share the progress of the project among all the stakeholders in Dang, Bardiya and Kailali districts. In the meeting, IRMI progress was shared with the participants, including mitigated NRM conflicts facilitated by the trained key stakeholders. The IRMI working strategy was also shared again to all the stakeholders in the meeting. A total of 354 (240 male and 114 female) VDC-level stakeholders from the VDC office, political parties, Ward Citizen Forum, Badghar (traditional leaders in Tharu community), social workers, journalists and NGOs activists participated in the meetings. The meetings concentrated on following main topics:

- *IRMI plan vs. achievements*
- *Natural resource related conflicts and their progress status*



Figure 8: VDC-level meeting held in Hasulia, Kailali

- *Submission of project activities in VDC council.*
- *Coordination and collaboration*
- *Expected support from stakeholders*
- *Feedback to the program*

Overall, the stakeholders appreciated IRMI interventions in the communities and coordination with local line agencies. In addition, they appreciated IRMI's rigorous involvement in facilitating long-standing conflicts in the CFUGs. They requested an extension of the program in their CFUGs and its expansion to other areas.

**Objective 3: Enhance the sustainability of negotiated agreements by engaging communities in joint environmental and economic development initiatives.**

***Activity 3.1: Community Peace Building Forums.***

In each target CFUG, the trained key stakeholders formed themselves into 20 'Natural Resource Management Forums (NRMFs)' in their respective CFUGs to facilitate NRM conflicts. Those platforms are formed by the CFUGs to create safe spaces for the conflicting parties to interact with one another peacefully to seek amicable solutions. The key stakeholders received intensive trainings on mediation, dialogue and negotiation skills, including other facilitation and conflict mapping skills necessary to facilitate conflicts effectively for amicable solutions. As soon as key stakeholders are made aware of a conflict, trained key stakeholders arrange meetings with conflicting parties to initiate the process carefully. Once the disputants agree on the mitigation process, the key stakeholders start to intervene in the conflicts continuously. During this period, they have been able to mitigate four long-standing natural resource conflicts, while there are other additional NRM conflicts in the process of being resolved. Depending on the case requirements, they also take support from the DFO, VDC, FECOFUN and other stakeholders during some of the sessions in the conflict facilitations. Once the communities reach an acceptable solution for the conflicts, the stakeholders also look for the sustainability of the agreements, which is then detailed and stipulated in the follow-up plans and the agreements, which are jointly monitored closely by the stakeholders.

**Experience Sharing Meetings Among Key Stakeholders:**

Seven experience sharing meetings were conducted among 127 (68 male and 59 female) trained key stakeholders in Dang, Bardiya and Kailali. They met regularly to share their experiences in the conflict facilitations. They also discuss the skills and knowledge they learned previously as a way to refresh their knowledge. This is also an opportunity for them to seek support from the project team regarding complex issues they come across. This often requires that key stakeholders meet regularly and discuss the conflict resolution methodology for every conflict they identify. Typically, they share their successes and challenges faced during conflict facilitations. In addition, they discuss possible strategies/solutions for the challenges/problems faced among themselves together with the master trainer. Finally, key stakeholders prepare or revise the detailed conflict facilitation action plans during these sessions based on the feedback from their peers.

### ***Activity 3.2: Joint natural resource management initiatives.***

#### **Second Phase Natural Resource Management (NRM) Initiative:**

In close coordination with the DFO/National Park, IRMI implemented different types of joint initiatives for natural resource management to help reduce resource demand, limit environmental degradation and promote cooperation. Out of the 20 second phase NRM initiatives, 11 CFUGs completed implementation, four CFUGs are in the final stage for completion, three CFUGs are preparing to start implementation in the next quarter, and the remaining two CFUGs are still working on resolving their internal conflicts. These initiatives have directly benefitted 6,973 households and 39,684 (19,895 male and 19,789 female) individuals. These initiatives are implemented jointly by all the users, including conflicting communities. Joint participation has also supported the bridging of relationships between divided communities as they implement these initiatives jointly for a common purpose. Looking at the progress to date, completed initiatives have scemented the conflict resolution agreements, prevented possible future conflicts, and have significantly contributed towards sound natural resource protection. These joint initiatives have also promoted community participation, peaceful co-existence and community ownership of natural resource management. The detailed status of the initiatives is attached in Annex-I.



**Figure 9: Bio-engineering check dam, Neulapur, Bardiya**



#### **Forest Fire Prevention Week Celebration:**

All IRMI target CFUGs celebrated Forest Fire Prevention Week from 28 February to 05 March 2016 with the main theme of *'Wherever there is fire safety, [extinguisher] pins are strong; only you can prevent forest fire.'* The objective of the celebration was to control and minimize fire in the forest. The week was celebrated with awareness-raising activities on fire prevention and preparing fire lines to protect forests from fire. A total of 234 (125 male and 109 female) community members participated in the fire week prevention celebration from the IRMI target communities. Kopila CFUG Neulapur, Bardiya conducted mass messaging and constructed a 1-kilometer long fire line, while three CFUGs in Dang dug a 500-meter long fire line in their vulnerable forest areas.



**Figure 10: Users engaged in fire line preparation, Dang**

### ***Activity 3.3: Support environmentally sustainable economic initiatives.***



### Environmentally Sustainable Economic Initiatives:

During the conflict mapping exercise, the illegal theft of forest resources by poor users was identified as a major cause of conflict in the communities; an important issue these economic projects seek to address. Therefore, one of the objectives of these initiatives is to create alternative livelihood opportunities for poor and ultra-poor households so that their dependency on forest resources for their daily needs will decrease as well as decrease the conflict created by illegal extractions. Out of the 20 second phase economic initiatives, 14 CFUGs have completed implementation, two CFUGs are in the final stage of completion, two CFUGs are preparing to start implementation in the next quarter and the remaining two CFUGs are still working on resolving their internal conflicts.

These initiatives are initiated and implemented in close coordination with the DFO/National Park by the community. These initiatives include goat rearing, pig rearing, cow rearing, buffalo rearing, poultry farming, retail shops, and vegetable farming. These identified initiatives have directly supported 305 households, including 1,631 individuals (810 male and 821 female). CFUGs have mobilized these individual-based initiatives through their revolving fund policies. According to the policy, CFUGs disburse loans to their users who will pay back the loans over pre-determined periods of time. The CFUGs will then mobilize the repaid amount as loans to other poor users for their economic initiatives, and so on in a revolving fund managed by the CFUGs for the benefit of their members. This will continue as such beyond the lifespan of the IRMI program. The detailed status of the environmentally sustainable economic initiatives is attached in Annex-II.



Figure 11: Poultry Farming in Manikapur, Banke

### Other Activities:

#### Video Documentary:

IRMI hired experts to capture video of IRMI achievements in Kailali, Bardiya, Banke and Dang districts, with the specific objectives to: document how IRMI's resource-based conflicts are being resolved by CFUGs which could serve as lessons to similar projects; document experiences of relevant district stakeholders, women leaders, CFUGs, youth and marginalized users on how they are helping to create inclusive decision-making related to natural resource use and management and community ownership of implemented activities; and document some of the activities of joint environmental and economic initiatives being implemented by the CFUGs, showing some of the impacts these projects have had on the beneficiaries. The video documentary is meant to educate, inform and serve as a reminder that the IRMI program is geared towards natural resource-based conflict resolution, promotes inclusive management, and reduces natural resource competition through joint environmental and economic initiatives. The team has finished collecting footage from the field and will finalize the documentary in April 2016.



Figure 12: IRMI video recording



### **CMM Partners Meeting:**

IRMI participated in the regular USAID CMM partners' quarterly meeting on 21-25 January in Butwal. Care Nepal hosted the meeting and field visits in the Sambad communities discussing the following key points:

- Do No Harm orientation and project context mapping
- A session on Gender Based Violence
- Briefing on project M&E framework and PPR by all projects
- Live story telling: telling stories by real people impacted by the programs
- Sharing of best strategies, processes and new innovations by all programs
- Sambad community visits and reviews

IRMI plans to host the upcoming CMM quarterly meeting in early May 2016.

### **IV. Challenges**

- The DFO has prevented CFUGs' direct access to their bank accounts. Now, CFUGs need to get DFO approval to withdraw money from their bank accounts in Kailali. To get withdrawal approval, they need to approach the Area Forest Office first, then the Sector Forest Office, and finally the DFO. The DFO holds the overall authority to approve the requests to withdraw money from the CFUG bank accounts. This process takes several weeks to get approvals to issue checks. This type of "informal" government control over financial decisions has delayed smooth implementation of IRMI activities in a few target CFUGs in Kailali. According to the policies, CFUGs are autonomous formal institutions and hold rights to control their accounts. The same issue was raised in the advocacy workshop in Kailali last year and was settled for nearly one year, but government offices have again started to impose such policies in some of the target CFUGs. This now requires another similar advocacy intervention in the district, which Mercy Corps will help facilitate under IRMI.
- The passive role of some government line agencies to perform their duties on time has also delayed some IRMI interventions. One of the target CFUGs is struggling with a forest land encroachment conflict. After many formal and informal conflict dialogue sessions, both the conflicting groups agreed to separate their forest land from private land and follow the results accordingly. However, the DFO passed this work on to the District Survey Office (DSO) to carry out an official survey to demarcate the two types of land and it has been several months since the DSO has visited the concerned area, even after several formal and informal requests by the CFUG. Without their survey, it is not possible to separate the land. This has delayed the implementation of remaining activities with that CFUG.

### **V. Lessons Learned**

- Effective conflict management demands continuous involvement throughout the conflict resolution process until agreements are implemented as agreed. Key stakeholders, therefore, need to engage in each case until resolutions are fully implemented as per the agreements.
- IRMI has facilitated CFUGs in implementing all their activities according to their policies and

good governance principles. IRMI focuses on using practical methods on CFUGs during the implementation of their capacity development plans and throughout, which has proven to be effective in that they are now able to perform their annual auditing, general assemblies, operation plan renewal, etc. effectively and on time. CFUGs are now able to prepare and manage their installment settlement documents and follow the required procedures. This learning stresses the importance of continued engagement, onsite coaching and regular guided facilitation for effective capacity enhancement.

## **VI. Operating Environment:**

On 20 September 2015, the long stalled Constitution of Nepal was passed with 90% approval from the representatives in Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA). However, protests in the Terai began in the final weeks of the protracted constitution drafting process. The marginalized groups in the Terai—the lowland region that stretches across southern Nepal between the Indian border and the foothills of the Himalayas—objected to this so-called ‘fast track’ process and the constitution which emerged from it. Once again, the delineation of federal provinces was the most contentious issue. In particular, protests against the new constitution involved two relatively large ethnic or social groups: Madhesi, concentrated in the eastern and central Terai; and Tharus, concentrated in the far western Terai. They objected to the new federal boundaries and to other aspects of the new constitution, which they claim abrogate previous commitments made to their communities and create of them “second-class” citizens. Objections include the unequal distribution of parliamentary constituencies and restrictions on the right of women to pass citizenship to their children. Therefore, on 23 September 2015, the Madhesi-based political parties instituted a blockade along the long border with India, resulting in an economic and humanitarian crisis, which has severely negatively affected Nepal and its economy, which was still reeling in the aftermath of the April-May earthquakes. Four months after its promulgation, the Legislature-Parliament passed the first amendment bill on the Constitution of Nepal with a two-thirds majority on 23 January 2016. However, agitating parties disavowed the amendment passed by the Parliament to resolve the ongoing political crisis and blockade of key trade border points with India, calling it “incomplete” as it did not address their concerns over redrawing federal boundaries. The amendment aims at resolving the ongoing agitation by the Madhesi parties. However, after two weeks on 08 Feb 2016, the agitating parties withdrew the border point blockades, where crucial supplies enter on cargo trucks from India. At the current time, all the border points with India are open for imports and exports; however, there remain insufficient supplies of cooking gas and petroleum products in major cities of Nepal. This has ultimately raised the prices of basic commodities in the markets. Currently, the agitating parties have not announced official strikes, but they are issuing public demands declaring that unless their demands are met, they will declare strikes once again. There are questions as to the level of support they would receive from previously supportive or passive parties or actors, but the threat of a resumption of a blockade leaves a definite sense of uncertainty, particularly at a time of significant uncertainty on higher level political developments within the country.

The security issues and the months-long blockade along the Indian border delayed program activities and limited field movement by the program team starting in late September 2015. Therefore, Mercy Corps has formally submitted a three-month no-cost extension request to USAID the first week of March 2016.

## **VII. Coordination and Collaboration:**

To maximize program impact and promote program sustainability, IRMI has been engaged in coordination and collaboration efforts with like-minded organizations at the central, district and VDC levels from the program start. These efforts are in collaboration with the DFO, FECOFUN, DDC, VDC, DiSCO, Hariyo Ban, SajhedariBikaas, Shikta Irrigation Project and other USAID-supported projects/programs. These collaborations have contributed positively to IRMI and IRMI to them.

IRMI works in regular coordination with the DFO for all the activities with CFUGs. In this period, the DFOs' involvements in conflict facilitation and education session facilitation have played an important role in raising community awareness and in conflict management. IRMI finalized and implemented economic and NRM initiatives with direct coordination and approval from the DFO. Therefore, the DFOs and their branches have regularly supported the program and the target CFUGs significantly in this respect. Similarly, IRMI has been working in coordination and collaboration with the FECOFUN district chapters from the program start. IRMI has conducted advocacy workshops with their collaboration in the past and they regularly provide support to IRMI in the drafting of follow-up plans prepared after each such workshop. In addition, IRMI is receiving their support to conduct some education sessions and to facilitate some conflict resolutions.

## **VIII. Monitoring and Evaluation**

On the basis of a detailed and comprehensive Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMP), IRMI is monitoring progress regularly and providing feedback for improvements. To ensure program quality, Mercy Corps has invested significant resources in strengthening partner capacities in monitoring and evaluation system development. BASE has a full time M&E Officer and the SS Program Coordinator is partly engaged in regular field-level measuring of progress. MC's IRMI M&E Officer is supporting the team by developing required formats and tools to track progress and is developing a solid database for the program. In this period, she visited the field and oriented partner staff on the gaps she found for improvements in data quality. As outlined in the PMP, indicators include output and impact indicators, measure specific results, and are disaggregated by a range of demographic characteristics. As per USAID policy, the indicators mentioned in the PMP are disaggregated by sex, age, and caste/ethnicity. The caste/ethnicity disaggregation will follow the six main categories as: Dalit, Muslim, Brahmin/Chhetri, Newar and Janajati. Impact indicators are directly linked to the program's two Theories of Change, providing the opportunity to test the validity of these theories through the program evaluation. Additionally, the impact indicators were developed with an eye toward capturing changes in factors that underpin peaceful coexistence and stability, in recognition of the fact that many community-level conflicts are latent, resulting in persistent exclusion without visible signs of violence. In this period, the IRMI Technical Officer (TO), has regularly monitored the performances of NRM and economic initiatives implementation in the target communities. Based on the performance and additional community consultations, the TO has recommended IRMI management to release further installments of the NRM and Economic initiatives. In addition, the Program Manager has conducted field visits on several occasions and provided feedback to both implementing partner staff and management.

### Joint Monitoring Visits:

DPAC members' including other district level stakeholders conducted joint monitoring visits in Bardiya and Dang districts in the IRMI communities. These two visits included 47 participants from DDC, DFO, Local Peace Committee, DiSCO, DLRO, FECOFUN, political parties, journalists, NGO Federations, etc. Both the whole day programs were chaired by the DDC and were split into three parts: progress sharing at the beginning, followed by the field visits and a feedback session at the end. The prime objective of the program was to monitor the program progress physically in the field by the



Figure 13: District level stakeholder's field monitoring visit in Dang

stakeholders and acquire their creative feedback to the program team. All the stakeholders appreciated the program interventions and praised IRMI as a unique and relevant program for the overall development of the CFUGs. In addition, they appreciated IRMI's successes in the effective management of the conflicts over forest land encroachment, which is a major challenge of CFUGs in Nepal. They have recommended continuing this program for a longer period of time and that it should expand to other areas as well. They

*Parbati Pandit, Program Officer DDC, Bardiya said, "The bio-engineering check dam supported by IRMI is found to be very effective in protecting against land cuttings by floods. Bardiya district is hard hit by floods every year and we have lost many lives as well. Therefore, this check dam is cost effective as well as very effective in protecting land from floods. I am very impressed with this and want to recommend the DDC to mainstream this technology in the entire district."*

have also provided crucial feedback like: promoting alternative leadership; empowering women to be in leadership positions; and promoting forest-based enterprises, among others.

### VII. Conclusion

Mercy Corps continues to accelerate IRMI activities through close collaboration and coordination with partners, DFO, VDC, FECOFUN and trained key stakeholders, who have taken over organizing community-led consultative/mitigation meetings around natural resource management. During this period, the IRMI team completed implementation of fourteen environmentally sustainable economic initiatives and eleven natural resource management initiatives. Those initiatives are implemented with the active participation of the target people, including other conflicting groups and in regular coordination with the DFO/National Park Office, to ensure sustainability. The remaining four NRM and two economic initiatives are in the final stages for completion. The program team, in collaboration with the DFO, has conducted many education sessions to raise awareness on natural resource management and use. In addition, the team has continued to raise the awareness of the communities through the FM radio programs, street dramas, and NRM workshops. Similarly, IRMI has developed an experience-based Dialogue Facilitation manual useful for effective NRM conflict facilitation. Based on the manual, IRMI conducted ToT for program staff and training to key stakeholders on Dialogue Facilitations. In this period, the key stakeholders have mitigated four natural resource conflicts related to forest land encroachment and have bridged the relationships among the divided communities. The willingness of both the divided

communities after the conflict resolution to separate boundaries jointly is a good example of their bridged relationships. Similarly, IRMI has mobilized a team of experts to develop a video documentary of program best practices and lessons learned.

### VIII. Upcoming activities

Program activities for the next quarter will include:

- Facilitate resolution of NRM conflicts in the target CFUGs.
- Continue to monitor economic and NRM initiatives implemented.
- Identify and implement remaining economic and NRM initiatives in the target Community Forest User Groups.
- Conduct district-wide advocacy related activities with relevant government leadership on NRM issues.
- Finalize IRMI video documentary on current IRMI best practices and lessons learned.
- Conduct education sessions on natural management issues and inclusivity.
- Support FM radio programs in target communities to reinforce awareness raising sessions.
- Publish and distribute IRMI experience-based Dialogue Facilitation Manual to all key stakeholders.
- Document project learning.

### IX. Impact Story:

#### **KamalPokhari and KaramDev CFUGs celebrated their successes:**

Five years ago, the District Forest Office (DFO) in Kailali handed over Kamal Pokhari CFUG and Karam Dev CFUG to their respective communities. Those CFUGs realized that they had 16 hectares of forest land overlapping on their maps a month and a half after the handover. Both CFUGs individually approached the DFO, the Federation of Community Forestry Users (FECOFUN) and the Community Forest Coordination Community (CFCC) for many years to settle their conflict, but without any resolution, which increasingly deteriorated the relationship between the neighboring communities. This also delayed their normal operations, including the Kamal Pokhari CFUG Operational Plan renewal process for ten months, resulting in the loss of regular support from the DFO and other agencies during that time. Because of this type of conflict, IRMI selected KamalPokhari CFUG as a target community in January 2014. IRMI then conducted several activities, including identification and training to key stakeholders to facilitate the conflict more effectively. During the training, the key stakeholders prepared an action plan to mitigate their conflict. In April 2014, they started to intervene in the conflict in consultation with both communities and other concerned stakeholders. According to the plan, they commenced the process by carrying out a detailed conflict mapping exercise, followed by detailed action plan preparation by the key stakeholders and the implementation of said action plan. Several facilitation sessions were conducted, which included formal/informal separate/joint meetings, and dialogue and negotiation sessions. Among them, a joint meeting among all the conflicting parties and VDC level stakeholders in Hasulia VDC office decided to conclude the case formally in the presence of the District Forest Officer (DFO). According to the decisions, a dialogue session was organized in the

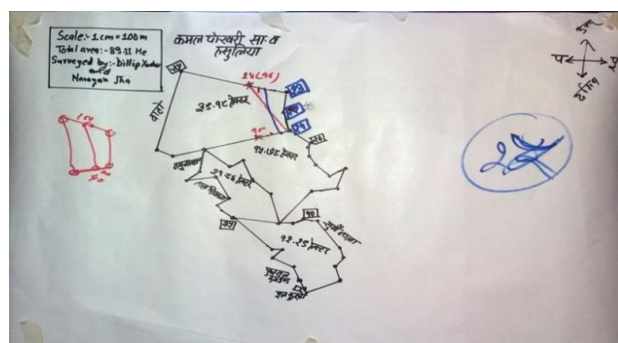


Figure 14: Sketch agreed by both parties on 31 Dec 2015



District Forest Office in Kailali on 31 December 2015, with the direct involvement of IRMI-trained key stakeholders, the DFO, Assistance Forest Officer (AFO), representatives from the CFUGs, an advocate, and program partner BASE. At the end of the day, both the conflicting parties were able to find solutions and signed a resolution agreement. Both the CFUGs agreed on the division of the 16 hectares of overlapping land. According to the agreement reached, Kamal Pokhari CFUG will get 11.5 hectares and the remaining 5.5 hectares will go to the Karam Dev CFUG, which is detailed in a sketch they prepared to separate land in the meeting. To implement the agreement reached, both CFUGs agreed to jointly erect demarcation lines/pillars to mark the borders on 9 January 2016.

According to the agreement, representatives from two related Area Forest Offices and both CFUGs collected and conducted a GPS survey to separate forest land together. Finally, based on the survey, a more formal sketch was prepared and agreed to by all participants. They also decided to assemble again after several days to demarcate the land jointly. However, when the time came to demarcate the land, the KaramDev CFUG refused to implement the process, despite their previous agreement. Again, the key stakeholders continued with the dialogue sessions among both the communities. The main point of dissatisfaction was the limited space allocated to them around the KaramDev temple area, although they did agree with the total forest land area they would be getting, i.e., 5.5 hectares. As this particular area of agreement came to their notice in a dialogue session, the key stakeholders facilitated accordingly. Finally, in a session facilitated by key stakeholders on 9 February 2016, both parties agreed to allocate enough land around the KaramDev temple. Again, the GPS survey was conducted to redraw the forest land boundaries appropriately and delineate the results on the ground. At the same time, the CFUGs representatives, in the presence of key stakeholders and AFO representatives, happily agreed to install pillars and jointly prepare a fire line along the border.

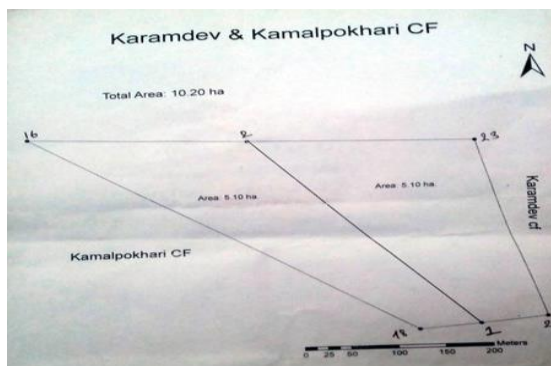


Figure 15: Final sketch agreed on 9 Feb 2016

On 29 Feb 2016, all the CFUG members from both communities gathered around the area where they planned to clear the boundary line. First, they marked the entire disputed land on the ground jointly as per the agreement to separate their overlapping land and installed cement pillars, so that there would be no confusion, and thus also no conflict. At the same time, they together prepared a one kilometer fire line five meters wide to protect their forests from forest fire. After they finished



Figure 17: Both communities celebrating their success



Figure 16: Pillar installation and fire line preparation jointly

the work, both the communities organized a joint feast and a Tharu cultural program to build back the degraded relationship and share the message of reconciliation to their wider communities. The event was marked by a feast of local food and a Tharu cultural dance. Participants offered

*tika* (marks on the forehead with brightly colored powder, which is a Nepali cultural act of respect and celebration) and garlands to each other as a symbol of coming back together. Hundreds of people from both communities, including children, women, youths and elderly people, including VDC level stakeholders, joined in on the celebration. On the occasion, Mr. Ramsharan Chaudhary, former president of KaramDev CFUG said, "Our continuous efforts are able to build consensus among us. Therefore, this has bridged the gap between the users of KamalPokhari and our CFUG, and will remain forever."



**Annex – I: Natural Resource Management Initiatives:**

<b>District</b>	<b>CFUG Name and Address</b>	<b>Name of Initiative</b>	<b>HHS</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>Dang</b>	ViedaharSunpur CFUG, PawanNagar	Barbed wire fencing	631	3,265	1,675	1,590
	SatpokhariHurum CFUG, Panchakule	Under discussion to finalize				
	Devidanda CFUG, Purandhara	Trench digging	170	1,042	532	510
	JarayoTakuri CFUG, Halwar	Barbed wire fencing	186	1,032	512	520
<b>Banke</b>	Sungava CFUG, Naubasta	Barbed wire fencing	722	4,043	1,981	2,062
	Jana EkataMahila CFUG, Rajhena	Barbed wire fencing	2,079	11,339	5,710	5,629
	Miteri CFUG, Kohalpur	Barbed wire fencing	266	1,634	796	838
	Jaya Saraswoti CFUG, Manikapur	Barbed wire fencing	282	2,300	1,187	1,113
	Hajrat CFUG, Hirminiya	Barbed wire fencing	649	3,087	1,501	1,586
<b>Bardiya</b>	EkataSamaj CFUG, Motipur	Barbed wire fencing	490	3,005	1,509	1,496
	BhadohiMahila CFUG, Mainapokhar	Barbed wire fencing	251	1,271	604	667
	Kopila CFUG, Neulapur	Bio-check dam (bamboo piling)	31	164	80	84
	Jharsaluwa CFUG, Bagnaha	Barbed wire fencing	303	1,758	910	848
<b>Kailali</b>	Sita Ram CFUG, Beladevipur	Barbed wire fencing	313	2,006	1,017	989
	Suryodaya CFUG, Shreepur	Barbed wire fencing	383	2,108	1,074	1,034
	Shivashakti CFUG, Ratanpur	Barbed wire fencing	73	430	220	210
	Kamal Pokhari CFUG, Hasuliya	Nursery, trench and fire line	144	1,200	587	613
	ShahidSanghariBhimdatta Pant CFUG, Geta	Bio-check dam				
<b>Total</b>			<b>6,973</b>	<b>39,684</b>	<b>19,895</b>	<b>19,789</b>

**Annex II: Environmentally Sustainable Economic Initiatives:**

District	CFUG Name and Address	Name of Initiative	HHs	Population	M	F
<b>Dang</b>	ViedaharSunpur CFUG, Pawannagar	Goat and pig rearing	16	83	42	41
	Devidanda CFUG, Purandhara	Goat rearing &retail shop	25	136	64	72
	SatpokhariHurum CFUG, Panchakule	Under discussion				
	JarayoTakuri CFUG, Halwar	Goat rearing	16	76	41	35
<b>Banke</b>	Sungava CFUG, Naubasta	Goat rearing	21	127	56	71
	Jana EkataMahila CFUG, Rajhena	Vegetable farming	30	140	72	68
	Miteri CFUG, Kohalpur	Vegetable farming	26	135	67	68
	Jaya Saraswoti CFUG, Manikapur	Cow and poultry farming	9	47	22	25
	Hajrat CFUG, Hirminiya	Buffalo rearing	4	21	9	12
<b>Bardiya</b>	EkataSamaj CFUG, Motipur	Goat rearing	31	167	79	88
	BhadohiMahila CFUG, Mainapokhar	Goat rearing	30	148	71	77
	Kopila CFUG, Neulapur	Goat rearing	21	115	59	56
	Jharsaluwa CFUG, Bagnaha	Goat &pig rearing and retail shop	30	165	85	80
<b>Kailali</b>	Sita Ram CFUG, Beladevipur	Pig rearing &poultry farming	9	79	43	36
	Suryodaya CFUG, Shreepur	Vegetable &poultry farming and retail shop	9	47	25	22
	Shivashakti CFUG, Ratanpur	Poultry farming and retail shop	6	39	20	19
	Kamal Pokhari CFUG, Hasuliya	Pig &goat rearing and retail shop	12	55	26	29
	ShahidSanghariBhimdatta Pant CFUG, Geta	Vegetable, goat, poultry, and retail shop	10	51	29	22
<b>Total</b>			<b>305</b>	<b>1,631</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>821</b>

**Annex III: PMP Achievements for this Period:**

Result	Performance Indicator and Disaggregates	Type	Data Source	Frequency	Targets	Achievements; Jan-March 2016	Achievements (June 2013 – March 2016)
<b>Goal: Enhance stability through natural resource conflict resolution and inclusive natural resource management.</b>							
Reduced tensions over the use and management of natural resources	(G1) % change in the number of people who report conflict over natural resources in their community. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey, Key Informant Interviews	Program start/end	Baseline -20%		
More inclusive and equitable natural resource management	(G2) % change in # of people who report that natural resource use and management is equitable, transparent, and inclusive. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey, Key Informant Interviews	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
<b>Objective 1: Strengthen the ability of key stakeholders to resolve community-level natural resource conflicts in an inclusive, sustainable manner</b>							
30 natural resource-based conflicts identified	(1.1) # of natural resource-based conflicts identified.	MC	Key Informant Interviews, Community Consultations	Program start	30	0	58

400 key stakeholders strengthen their conflict resolution skills	(1.2) # of people trained in conflict mitigation/resolution skills with USG assistance. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	USAID	Program records	Quarterly	400	421	421
	(1.3) % Change in program participants demonstrating increased confidence and willingness to use consensus-building/negotiation approaches to resolve conflicts. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Stakeholder Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +20%		
30 natural resource-based conflicts resolved	(1.4) # of natural resource-based conflicts resolved	MC	Dispute Resolution Agreement Form	Quarterly	30	4	40
	(1.5) % change in ability of community members to access natural resources. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, religion, and type of resource.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +50%		

Collaborative relationships between key stakeholders enhanced	(1.6) % change in collaboration among key stakeholders around natural resource management and resource-based conflict resolution	MC	Stakeholder Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +20%		
Implementing local partners increase organizational capacity	(1.7) % change in organizational capacity scores	MC	Organizational Assessment	Program start/end	Baseline + 50%		
<b>Objective 2: Increase inclusive and participatory resource-related decision among community and government bodies</b>							
20 user groups exhibit more inclusive internal governance practices	(2.1) % of targeted user groups demonstrating more inclusive internal decision-making practices	MC	Organizational assessment	Program start/end	Baseline + 50%		
	(2.2) % change in perceptions of community members that they can influence local natural resource management decisions. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		

Increased community awareness of rights and responsibilities related to natural resource use and management	(2.3) # of outreach activities to raise awareness of government policies related to natural resource use and management.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	80	8	91
	(2.4) % change in awareness among community members about their rights and responsibilities related to natural resource use and management. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
Increased community participation in government decision-making related to natural	(2.5) # of community members attending government fora, meetings, or planning sessions. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	600	60	*1,513

resource use and management	(2.6) % Change in perceptions of community members that they can influence government planning and decision-making related to natural resource use and management. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
<b>Objective 3: Enhance the sustainability of negotiated agreements by engaging communities in joint environmental and economic development initiatives</b>							
1440 women and girls and 960 young men develop strategies for expanding their participation in peace building and natural resource management	(3.1) # Of people attending USG-assisted facilitated events that are geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	USAID	Program records	Quarterly	2,400	2106	**6,026



	(3.2) % change in perceptions of women and youth that they can influence decision-making processes related to natural resource management and community relationship-building. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
20 communities improve inclusive natural resource management and rebuild degraded resources	(3.3) # Of natural resource initiatives implemented. Disaggregate by type of project, # of people benefitted, and location.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	40	8	37
20 communities strengthen environmentally sustainable economic activities	(3.4) # Of sustainable economic initiatives implemented. Disaggregate by type of project, # of beneficiaries, and location.	MC	Program records	Quarterly	40	8	38

	(3.5) % Change in self-reported economic wellbeing among participating community members. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +20%		
Cooperative relationships between conflicting communities built	(3.6) % Change in number of people who believe that there is a tangible benefit to cooperation. Disaggregate by age, gender, ethnicity, caste, and religion.	MC	Community Survey	Program start/end	Baseline +25%		
Note:	<i>*In IRMI districts, it is found that community members are interested in supporting the peace process, so more than expected community members attended government forums and/ or meetings and/ or planning sessions</i>						
	<i>**IRMI has identified a number of conflicts more than targeted. To resolve those conflicts, the number of activities/ sessions had to be increased, resulting in this indicator being exceeded.</i>						